

COMPARISON BETWEEN THE TRUMPETS & VIALS

Revelation 15:5 – 16:2

Trumpets.

1. Hail, fire, and blood cast upon **THE EARTH**; *one third* trees, etc., burnt.
2. *One third* of **SEA** made blood; one third of creatures therein and of ships destroyed.
3. *One third* of the **RIVERS** made bitter; *many* men destroyed.
4. *One third* of the **SUN**, etc. smitten; one third of the day darkened.
5. Star from heaven falls into the **ABYSS**; he sends forth locusts; men *seek death*; Hebrew name of their king is Abaddon.
6. Armies from the **EUPHRATES** destroy *one third* part of men; men *repent not*.

Episode:—The two witnesses of *God* **WITNESS** for him and work **MIRACLES**; **WAR** against them by the beast.

7. VOICES in heaven; the **JUDGMENT**; earthquake, etc., and **HAIL**.

Vials

1. Vial poured **ON THE EARTH**; sore upon *the followers* of the beast.
2. The **SEA** made blood *as of a dead man*; *every soul* therein destroyed.
3. **RIVERS** made blood; declared to be God's vengeance upon [**ALL**] men.
4. **SUN** smitten; *men* scorched; men blaspheme, men *repent not*.
5. The **THRONE** and kingdom of the beast smitten; men, in pain, *blaspheme* God; men *repent not*.
6. The way prepared for kings beyond the **EUPHRATES**.

Episode:—Three unclean spirits of the *dragon* **WITNESS** for him and work **MIRACLES**; **WAR** by the world at (the Hebrew) Armageddon.

7. VOICES in heaven; the **FALL** of Babylon; **EARTHQUAKE**, etc., and **HAIL**.,

We may from this comparison notice—

- (1) The vials form a series of visions denouncing God's judgments against the wicked.
- (2) The number seven as well as their character indicates the universal and complete nature of these judgments.
- (3) The events portrayed occupy the same period in time as the seals and trumpets; that is to say, the period of the world's history terminating with the last judgment day.
- (4) As in the cases of the seals and trumpets, they are general indications of God's judgments; and though particular events may be partial fulfilments, the complete fulfilment is in all time.
- (5) In comparison with the seals and trumpets, we may observe some points in common and some in which the visions differ.
 - (a) Like the former visions, these may be divided into two groups of four and three (see on the trumpets).
 - (b) The structure of the vial visions is almost exactly parallel to that of the seals.
 - (c) The visions all terminate with the same events portrayed in similar language, though, as the three sets of visions proceed, more stress is laid upon the judgment of the wicked, and less on the victory of the redeemed.
 - (d) An episode occurs after the sixth vial of almost identical nature with, though much shorter than, that after the sixth trumpet.
 - (e) The severity of the nature of the vial judgments is conspicuous. Whereas under the seals one fourth was afflicted, and under the trumpets one third, there is nothing to indicate any exemption in the vial visions.